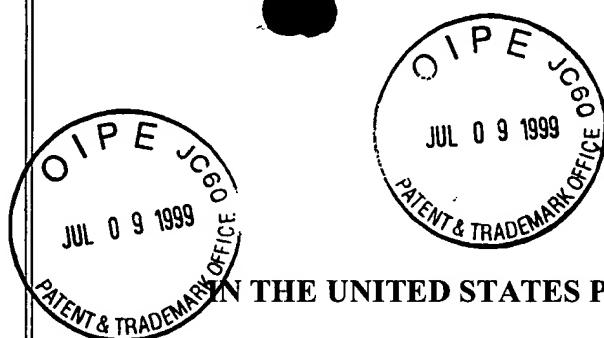


AF/1648

PATENT  
Attorney Docket No.: 2356.0011-06



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

O.K. TO  
RNTB  
→ 03/3/99  
JUL 14 1999  
In re Application of: )  
Marc ALIZON et al. )  
Serial No.: 09/041,975 )  
Filed: March 13, 1998 )  
For: VARIANT OF LAV VIRUSES )

10/C  
M.Q.J  
7/15/99  
(N)  
Group Art Unit: 1648

Examiner: Jeffrey S. PARKIN

**BOX AFTER FINAL**

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO PAPER NO. 9**

In response to the Office Action dated May 17, 1999 (Paper No. 9), applicants submit the following amendments and remarks.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the following claim:

23. (Amended) A purified HIV-1 variant virus,

wherein said HIV-1 variant virus differs [genetically] at the amino acid sequence level from the group of viruses consisting of HIV-1<sub>IIIB</sub>, HIV-1<sub>BRU</sub>, and HIV-1<sub>ARV-2</sub> greater than 3.4 % in the entire Gag protein, 3.1% in the entire Pol protein, and 13.0% in the entire Env protein,

wherein antibodies in AIDS patient sera bind to Gag, Pol, or Env polypeptides of said HIV-1 variant virus,